



League of Women Voters Torrance Area
Serving Carson, Gardena, Harbor City, Lomita and Torrance

<http://torrance.ca.lwvnet.org>
 Tel. 310-223-689 email lwv.torrancearea@um.att.com

LWVTA *Voter*

January/February 2012

Celebrating 50 years as League of Women Voters Torrance (now Torrance Area)

President's Message

Dear LWVTA Member,
 As the city celebrates 100 years, our League will be celebrating 50 years! I am proud to say that there is new energy and momentum building to create what will be another 50 years. But first, we must look back, take time to acknowledge and be grateful for those who were determined and dedicated to make our own League here in Torrance; people like Jeannette Pierson, Marilyn van Oppen, Ruth Nadel, and others. At this year's annual board meeting, we will be celebrating, remembering, and thanking those who laid the groundwork in creating a great group that definitely had a strong hand in shaping and protecting our City through study and action. Save the date, Saturday, May 5th to CELEBRATE 50 years of LWVTA. If you would like to help on this fun committee, please call me as our first meeting will be in late February.

If you would like to see the study "Know Your Town" that Marilyn talks about in her letter to me, go to our website torrance.ca.lwvnet.org or call and request a copy. We will send it to you free of charge. It's an amazing work put together by a group of citizens who cared about their city. As you know we are creating a documentary about LWVTA and our first 50 years. If you have any memories of studies, pictures, dates, places, happenings, I could really use your help as I will be starting the narrative-and-still-picture montage part. I want to thank Tuan Tran the cinematographer who has been helping us immensely.

We will be having a monthly Eat to Educate event to help pay for the film and other outreach programs so please watch for the list of "party places" in next month's newsletter and on the website.

I look forward to seeing you at one of our events in this election year full of events both local and national.

Enjoy your newsletter!

Athena Paquette Cormier, Co-President

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Welcome to new member:

Marianne Ramos

She is very passionate about education and the democratic process and wants to become more active in the community.

We send better health wishes to Ethel Sellars and Gladys Meade, who have had health issues.

Education Report By Tom Rische

In Tom Rische's last report, he references the Torrance Unified School District's [December 14, 2011 press release](#). This release talks about the effect of Governor Brown's announcement of more reductions to education that will be imposed mid-year. TUSD plans to cover the reduction with reserves. More reductions are expected in the next budget.

ARE YOU ONE OF THE 5 MILLION?



Their fingerprints are all over our democracy. With little notice in the press or from the public, the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) is engaged in a stealth campaign to expand corporate influence by taking away your right to vote. With corporate power barons like Kraft Foods, McDonald's, Pfizer and the Koch brothers providing the funding, ALEC is a factory for anti-voter legislation.

Unless we act now and fight back against voter suppression schemes dreamed up by ALEC and its corporate funders, up to 5 million Americans could be disenfranchised in the 2012 election

Source: Elisabeth MacNamara Letter, November 11, 2011

Also, see Business Week article in December 1, 2011 issue - *Pssst...Wanna Buy a Law?*

Memories of the Beginning of LWVTA

Dear Athena,

Thank you for sending a copy of the LWV Know your Town study. It was so nice to read that again. About the date; We had our organizational meeting in the City Council Chambers in the spring of 1962...had to have 50 paid members to become a separate league...my Mother-in-law was going to be in Europe for the whole summer and balked at joining a new organization but I dragged her there to make sure we got the 50 paid! That is how I remember the year.

The Know Your Town was the required 1st local study. That study in paper form was submitted to State LWV. The publication date a few years later is because it takes time to get something with that much data to press.

I notice that the copy you posted has Jeanette Pierson's name on it...she was very much involved in that study and publication and probably has more memories of it. However, I was not even on the LWV board...just a new member. Ruth Nadel was the President those first 2 years and certainly was very involved in the KYT study! I did have a brief conversation with her about what she remembered and I am sure she would be glad to share.

The main thing is that 1962 is the year we became a separate, local league.

Ciao, **Marilyn Van Oppen**

Board of Directors 2011-12

Co-presidents: Lola Ungar & Athena Paquette Cormier (Fundraising)**

*1st Vice President, Smart Voter: Pat Kromka**

*2nd Vice President, Voter Editor: Geneva Martin**

Secretary: Kay White

*Treasurer: Sue Martin**

**Executive Committee*

Directors

Communications: Sydne Morrison

Health/Webmaster: Barbara Barker

Membership/Land Use: Lola Ungar

Natural Resources: Margaret Carter

Social Policy/Education: Gerry Rische

Voter Service/Pros & Cons: Jackie LaBouff

At Large: Eunice Hargrove

Public Relations/Facebook: Emma Simmons

Be Part of the County League Board

The County League nominating committee is seeking people to serve on the LWV/LA County Board.

- It is a 2-year commitment.
- The Board meets once a month, with a break in the summer.
- Meeting locations vary around the County.
- We'd like to see each member League represented on the Board.

Look beyond your community at the County picture!

Please send all suggestions and volunteers to:

**Arlene Block,
Nominating Committee Chair
goarlene@cox.net**

Calendar

Saturday, January 28, 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.
League of Women Voters Los Angeles County Winter League Day - California's Initiative and Referendum: Abolish, Reform or Retain As Is?
Speaker: Bob Stern, President, Center for Governmental Studies

Location: Taix Restaurant, 1911 W. Sunset Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90026
 Price: Luncheon -- \$25 plus \$2.50 valet fee

Thursday, February 2, 7 p.m. - **Board Meeting***

Saturday, February 4, 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
The League of Women Voters of California (LWVC) Southern Regional Meeting
Hosted by: The Leagues of Women Voters Orange County Inter- League Organization (ILO) Topics Include:

- **The Rules Have Changed: The 2012 Elections**
- **Preparing for California's 2012 Elections and Anticipating a Flood of Ballot Measures**
- **Water: Which Way Do We Swim?**
- **The California State Budget – It's Broken What the League and the Public Can Do to Fix the Problem**

- **The "Observer Corps" – A Winner for the Public and for the League**

[Register Today](#)

Location: Neighborhood Congregational Church, 340 St. Anne's Drive, Laguna Beach, CA 92651
 Price: \$25/person; \$30/per person after January 28, 2012; \$15/person if you bring your own lunch

Thursday, March 1, 7 p.m. - **Board Meeting***

Saturday, March 31, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
LWV LACounty ILO Convention 2012
Speaker: LWVC Advocate Trudy Schafer

Location: Pickwick Gardens, Burbank

Thursday, April 5, 7 p.m. - **Board Meeting***

Saturday, April 28, 9:30 a.m.- noon,
Ballot Measure Training,
 Hollenbeck Palms

Thursday, May 3, 7 p.m. - **Board Meeting***

Saturday, May 5,
LWVTA Annual Meeting and 50th Anniversary Celebration

*(Call for location)

Sign the Petition

Let's fight back against the big money pouring into political campaigns this year. Let's put the SuperPacs out of business. How? [Sign the petition](#) on The White House website urging President Obama to appoint new commissioners to the Federal Election Commission (FEC). NOTE: In order to successfully sign the petition, you will need to create an account on WhiteHouse.gov and respond to a confirmation email. If you need guidance on creating this account please use [our helpful step-by-step guide](#) to creating your account and signing the petition.

The FEC is supposed to be the government agency that enforces campaign finance laws, but it isn't working and hasn't for a long time. Of the six commissioners at the agency, three simply refuse to enforce the law, and five are serving despite the fact that their terms expired some time ago. It's time to clean house and President Obama needs to do something about it.

We need at least 25,000 signatures of support by February 10, 2012 in order to get a response from The White House. Don't just sign it yourself; post the [petition](#) on Facebook, Tweet about it and forward this message to all of your friends.

Together, we can make sure that the votes of millions of Americans are more valuable to our elections than a big pile of money.

Source: Elisabeth MacNamara, Leader's Update January 19, 2012



About the League

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. The League has two separate and distinct roles. The League of Women Voters of California Education Fund, which conducts our voters service and civic education activities, is a 501(c)(3) corporation, a nonprofit educational organization.



League of Women Voters Torrance Area

Serving Carson, Gardena, Harbor City, Lomita and Torrance

Post Office Box 964

Torrance, CA 90508

Address Service Requested

Time Dated

JOIN THE LEAGUE

Be a part of an organization where smart, active leaders create lasting change in their communities.

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip _____

Preferred Phone: _____

Cell Phone _____

Email(s): _____

Check here if you want to begin or continue to receive your VOTER (newsletter) by E-MAIL.
(E-mail saves us printing and postage expenses).

Dues paid to **LWVTA** automatically include membership at the national, state and county levels.

Please check membership category:

- INDIVIDUAL DUES \$70
- HOUSEHOLD DUES \$105
- STUDENT DUES \$35
- CONTRIBUTION TO LWVTA \$_____

(Dues + contribution are not tax deductible).

Contributions can be tax deductible by making out a separate check to the LWVTA EdFund. We are part of the LWVC Education Fund and can use these donations for Voter Service, public meetings and to offset some of our Voter (newsletter) expenses.

TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATION TO **LWVTA EdFund**
\$_____

TOTAL AMOUNT OF ENCLOSED CHECK(S)
\$_____

Please send form and check payable to **LWVTA**

Mail to **LWVTA**, P. O. Box 964, Torrance, CA 90508

Membership in the League of Women Voters is open to all men and women of voting age who are U.S. citizens. Others are welcome to join the League as associate members. **NOT FOR WOMEN ONLY**

The League of Women Voters of California (LWVC)
Southern Regional Meeting



Hosted by:
The Leagues of Women Voters
Orange County Inter- League Organization (ILO)

Date and Time: Saturday, February 4, 2012
9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Location: Neighborhood Congregational Church
340 St. Anne's Drive, Laguna Beach, CA 92651

Price: \$25/person; \$30/per person after January 28, 2012
\$15/person if you bring your own lunch

Topics Include:

- **The Rules Have Changed: The 2012 Elections**
Preparing for California's 2012 Elections and Anticipating a Flood of Ballot Measures
- **Water: Which Way Do We Swim?**
- **The California State Budget – It's Broken**
What the League and the Public Can Do to Fix the Problem
- **The "Observer Corps" – A Winner for the Public and for the League**

Please register and pay by credit card at the LWVC website www.lwvc.org,
by January 28, or write a check payable to LWVC and mail with the form
below to: Diane Thomas, 2506 Calle Jade, San Clemente, CA 92673.
Questions? Contact Bea Field at 949-276-7555 or bfield@cox.net.

I will attend and buy lunch. \$25/person or \$30/person after January 28.

I prefer: Chicken Tostada Vegetarian Tostada

I will attend and bring lunch. \$15/person.

My check payable to LWVC is enclosed for \$_____.

Name _____ League _____

Phone _____ Email _____